Research Notes: for Michael Healy (1868-1917)

Research Overview:

Michael Healy was born in 1868 in County Roscommon, Ireland, and lost both parents by the age of seventeen. He emigrated in 1890, arriving in Boston before eventually settling in Chicago, where he married and raised a family. The surviving record of his life is uneven: long stretches are visible only through census enumeration and vital events, while moments of crisis and transition are sharply documented. Kinship as the organizing force of Michael's life in Ireland and the U.S.

His early life in Ireland is only lightly documented, but its outlines are clear. Michael grew up in a rural setting and experienced the deaths of both parents before adulthood. His emigration at age twenty-two marks a decisive break in place but not in family orientation. In the American record, Michael appears most clearly in relation to siblings, in-laws, and cousins, suggesting continuity of family reliance across migration.

Marriage in 1904 placed Michael within a dense network of Irish immigrant kin in Chicago. The 1910 census records a single household that included his wife, children, siblings, in-laws, and cousins. Family members appear together in the record during the years when his children were young and after both parents died, until the daughters were old enough to work.

Michael's life was brief. His wife died early in 1917, only weeks before he did, leaving three young daughters. His obituary identifies surviving family members and names his uncle, James Healy. The record ends with his death and burial, after which his daughters' lives continue beyond his own documentation.

Speculative Narrative:

Time Line:

10 Jul 1868 - Birth at Ratherogen, Roscommon, Ireland.[1]

1869 - Birth of sister Mary Healy (1869 - 1927) at Strokestown, Roscommon, Ireland.[2]

10 Aug 1871 - Birth of brother John Healy (1871 - 1924) at Elphin, Roscommon, Ireland.[3]

4 Aug 1879 - Death of father Martin Healy (1829 - 1879) at Rathkeva, Roscommon, Ireland.[4]

18 Sep 1885 - Death of mother Bridget McDermott (1832 - 1885) at Ratherogen, Roscommon, Ireland.[5]

1890 - Departure from Queenstown, Ireland, and Liverpool, England.[6]

[1] Baptismal Record

[2] Birth of sister Mary Healy

[3] Birth of brother John Healy

[4] Death of father Martin Healy

[5] Death of mother Bridget McDermott

[6] Immigration record

1890 - Arrival at Boston, Suffolk, Massachusetts.[7]

9 Jun 1904 - Marriage to Mary Brudell () at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[8]

Pat McDermott served as a witness at Michael Healy's marriage to Mary Brudell. His presence suggests a possible family connection, though the relationship is not identified in the record. The McDermott surname raises the possibility of a connection to Michael's maternal family.

2 Jul 1905 - Birth of daughter Mary Margaret Healy (1905 -) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[9]

24 Oct 1907 - Birth of daughter Anne Genevieve Beatrice Healy (1907 -) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[10]

1 Jan 1910 - Birth of daughter Gertrude Frances Healy (1910 -) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[11]

The 1910 census records Michael and Mary Healy living at 472 Cass Street in a household that included their children as well as siblings, in-laws, and cousins. The number and variety of relatives present indicate shared residence rather than a narrowly bounded household. Family members continue to appear together in the record after the deaths of both parents, remaining in shared living arrangements until the daughters were old enough to work.

The household members listed were:

[7] Immigration record

[8] Marriage to Michael Healy

[9] Birth of daughter Mary Margaret Healy

[10] Birth of daughter Anne Genevieve Beatrice Healy

[11] Birth of daughter Gertrude Frances Healy

Michael J. Healy (Head)
Mary Healy (Wife, née Brudell)
James Brudell (Mary's brother)
Bernard Brudell (Mary's brother)
Patrick Lenahan (Cousin, unclear whether related to Michael or Mary)
John Lenahan (Cousin, unclear whether related to Michael or Mary)
John Healy (Michael's brother)
Mary M. Healy (Daughter)
Mary Healy (Another daughter—possibly a duplicate entry, a mistake, or an unknown daughter)
Anna G. B. Healy (Daughter)
Gertrude B. Healy (Daughter)

1910 - US Census at Chicago, Cook, Illinois.[12]

Mike J Healey - head of household, male, white, age 38, married, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

James Brudell - brother, male, white, age 28, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

Bernard Brudell - brother, male, white, age 24, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

Patrick Lanahan - cousin, male, white, age 21, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

John Lanahan - cousin, male, white, age 21, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

John Healey - brother, male, white, age 36, single, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

Mary Healey - wife, female, white, age 32, married, born Ireland, parents born Ireland

Mary M. Healey, 32, dup?

Mary Healy - daughter female, white, age 4, single, born Illinois, parents born Ireland

[12] 1910 - US Census

Anna G B Healy - daughter female, white, age 2, single, born Illinois, parents born Ireland

Gertrude Healy - daughter female, white, age 0, single, born Illinois, parents born Ireland

1 Jan 1917- Death of wife Mary Cecelia Brudell (1873 - 1917) at Chicago, Cook, Illinois. [13]

30 Jan 1917- Death at Chicago, Cook, Illinois. [14]

"Healy - Michael, beloved husband of the late Mary Healy (nee Brudell), father of Mary, Anna and Gertrude, nephew of James Healy; native of Ratherogen, County Roscommon, Ireland. Funeral Thursday Feb. , from late residence, 218 E. Superior st., at 9:30 am to Holy Name cathedral, where his mass will be celebrated; autos to Calvary.

Chicago Daily News

Tues Jan 30, 1917

pg. 21 col 8"

Feb 1917- Burial first at x and then at Mt. Calvary Cemetery at Evanston, Cook, Illinois. [15]

Note on burial and later memorialization:

A gravestone at Mount Calvary Cemetery was later installed by Michael's daughter, Mary Healy Hopkinson. The stone records the names and dates of Michael Healy, his wife, two of his daughters, and other extended family members.

[13] Death of wife Mary Cecelia Brudell

[14] Death record Michael Healy

[15] Find a Grave

Appendix: Open research questions

Future research may focus on the network of relatives, associates, and neighbors surrounding Michael Healy, particularly those who appear in his household in census records. This includes examining potential guardianship records for his daughters, identifying any individuals with the surname Lenehan mentioned in related documents, and locating records noted as missing or unresolved in the research timeline.